Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and the Environmental Assessment Office

2018/19 – 2020/21 SERVICE PLAN

February 2018

BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Published by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Minister Accountability Statement

The *Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and the Environmental Assessment Office 2018/19 - 2020/21 Service Plan* was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared.

Honourable George Heyman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
February 2, 2018

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Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy is responsible for the protection, management and conservation of B.C.'s water, land, air and living resources. The Ministry mitigates and manages the risks and consequences from climate change, including developing plans to set and meet carbon pollution reduction targets. It also oversees provincial environmental assessment. Staff expertise in policy, science, research and analysis are central to supporting all Ministry responsibilities. Ministry legislation, regulation and public outreach activities ensure a safe and healthy environment for British Columbians while supporting a strong, sustainable economy.

This document is organized into three sections reflecting the three parts of the Ministry: the core Environment functions; the Climate Action Secretariat (CAS); and the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO).

Strategic Direction and Alignment with Government Priorities

All Ministers, as members of the BC Executive Council (Provincial Cabinet), are provided letters from the Premier outlining direction on key government initiatives. The Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy's mandate letter can be reviewed on the Ministry website. The mandate letter directs the Minister to:

- Renew the Climate Leadership Team within the first 100 days of the Minister's mandate (CAS);
- Implement a comprehensive climate-action strategy that provides a pathway for B.C. to prosper economically while meeting carbon pollution reduction targets, including setting a new legislated 2030 reduction target and establishing separate sectoral reduction targets and plans (CAS);
- Work with the Minister of Finance to implement an increase of the carbon tax by $5 per tonne per year, beginning April 1, 2018 to meet the federal government's carbon-pricing mandate, and take measures to expand the carbon tax to fugitive emissions and to slash-pile burning (CAS);
- Revitalize the Environmental Assessment (EA) process (EAO);
- Review the professional reliance model to ensure the legal rights of First Nations are respected, and the public's expectation of a strong, transparent process is met (Core Environment);
- Employ every tool available to defend B.C.'s interests in the face of the expansion of the Kinder Morgan pipeline, and the threat of a seven-fold increase in tanker traffic on B.C.'s coast (CAS); and
- Enact an endangered species law and harmonize other laws to ensure they are all working towards the goal of protecting our beautiful province (Core Environment).

The Ministry is aligned with government's key priorities:

Government Priority	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy aligns with these priorities by:
Delivering the services people count on	• Healthy and diverse ecosystems, native species and habitats (Goal 2) • Effective management of environmental risks and threats to public safety (Objective 1.4) • Optimize outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities within parks and protected areas (Objective 3.4) • Effective management of the risks and consequences associated with a changing climate. (CAS Objective 1.2)
A strong, sustainable economy	• Sustainable use of British Columbia's natural capital (Goal 3) • Implement a comprehensive climate-action strategy that provides a pathway for B.C. to prosper economically while meeting carbon pollution reduction targets (CAS Objective 1.1) • Defend B.C.'s interests in relation to the expansion of the Kinder Morgan pipeline (CAS Objective 1.3) • Timely and transparent Environmental Assessments (EAO Objective 1.1) • Ensure the effectiveness of Environmental Assessments (EAO Objective 1.2)

Core Environment Functions

Purpose of Core Environment Functions

The core functions of the Ministry include administering the province's parks and protected areas; monitoring and enforcing compliance with environmental laws and regulations; managing discharges to the environment from human activities; and protecting B.C.'s biodiversity, ecosystems, native species and natural habitats. The Ministry delivers services directly through staff based in regional offices across the province, as well as through partnerships and agreements with stakeholder groups, local governments, First Nations and the federal government.

Strategic Context for Core Environment Functions

Recent events and new government priorities will have considerable impacts on the Ministry's operational focus in 2018/19. The Ministry is committed to implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and will continue to review its policies, programs and legislation to support the principles of the declaration. In particular, the Ministry will explore additional on-the-ground partnerships and advance co-management relationships with First Nations. Furthermore, the Ministry will continue to build a workforce as diverse as the population of B.C. itself through a diversity strategy, including the use of programs such as the Aboriginal Youth Internship Program and the Work-Able program for persons with disabilities.

Work has already begun on other key priorities such as the new species at risk legislation, the review of the professional reliance model, and the implementation of the *Hullcar Aquifer Recommendations Report*, including amendments to the Agricultural Waste Control Regulation.

Conservation, compliance and enforcement efforts are being bolstered by additional funding to BC Parks and to the Conservation Officer Service to support the hiring of new park rangers and conservation officers. Additionally, dedicated funding for B.C.'s successful mussel defence program will help ensure it continues to keep invasive mussels out of the province's fresh water systems and water infrastructure.

The new *Water Sustainability Act* continues to be brought into force and new standards around fish processing discharges will strengthen protection of B.C.'s wild salmon stocks. Efforts to support regulatory reform and clean technology continue, including amendments to the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation. The Ministry has also passed the first phase of regulations to increase spill preparedness, response and accountability for transporters of liquid petroleum products in B.C. Discussions will also be starting soon with First Nations, local governments, federal partners, industry and stakeholders on the second phase of spill regulation enhancements.

BC Parks continues to assess the impacts of the 2017 wildfires which directly impacted BC Parks operations. This includes further evaluating the effects of lost camping revenues, campsite cancellations, and fire damage to 40,455 hectares of parks and protected areas. At this time, not all impacts are known as many parks and protected area locations that were burned are inaccessible and have not been inspected. The loss of park facilities in the front country is expected to be low with most of the impacts affecting backcountry facilities. BC Parks will conduct further impact assessments on the ground to determine what park-specific recovery plans are required.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures

Goal 1: Clean and safe water, land and air

Objective 1.1: Enhanced protection and stewardship of water resources

The Ministry develops innovative tools, strategies and partnerships to advance water resource management through relationships with First Nation, local and federal governments; industry and environmental organizations; universities and colleges; and professional associations. Sound science and policy inform land use planning, resource management decisions and activities on the land base to ensure B.C.'s supply of clean, fresh water is sustainable and responsive to a changing climate and growing demands.

Key Strategies:

- Providing leadership in the development of water strategies, science, policy, legislation and regulations to protect and manage the quality and quantity of surface water and groundwater.
- Developing and implementing monitoring strategies for surface water, groundwater and aquatic ecosystem health.
- Building and expanding new partnerships that leverage resources, networks and innovative thinking.

- Collaboratively developing and implementing transboundary water management agreements with neighbouring jurisdictions.

Key actions include the development of policies and regulations to support the implementation of the *Water Sustainability Act*, which was brought into force in 2016, as well as the completion of groundwater monitoring and science. Innovative approaches to watershed governance and management are being developed with First Nations to promote environmental sustainability. Implementation of the *Hullcar Aquifer Recommendations Report* recommendations and reforms to the Agricultural Waste Control Regulation and Organic Matter Recycling Regulation are also underway to further protect B.C.'s water and British Columbians' rights to clean, safe drinking water.

A performance measure for this objective is being developed for the 2019/20 service plan.

Objective 1.2: Enhanced protection and stewardship of our land

The Ministry manages environmental pressures from development and waste generation through the prevention of toxins and waste entering the environment. It ensures minimal environmental impact where discharges to the environment are inevitable or hazardous materials are used.

Key Strategies:

- Managing the authorization of discharges from human activities such as mining, landfills, sewage treatment, smelters and wood processing plants.
- Providing provincial leadership in municipal solid waste reduction through mandatory regional solid waste management plans and the promotion of organics recycling and food waste prevention initiatives.
- Performing ongoing oversight of mandatory product stewardship programs.

The Ministry uses both regulatory and non-regulatory approaches to achieve these strategies, including overseeing the implementation of the Recycling Regulation and the 2016 update of the Solid Waste Management Planning Guideline to strengthen waste management.

Performance Measures	2015/16 Baseline	2017/18 Forecast	2018/19 Target	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target
1.2a Per capita municipal solid waste disposal (kg per person)[1]	497	450	425	375	350
1.2b Per cent of population covered by an organic waste disposal restriction[2]	64.3%	68%	70%	75%	75%

[1] Data Source: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, manually compiled. 2017/18 per capita forecast informed by 2016 calendar year data.
[2] Data Source: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, manually compiled.

Linking Performance Measures to Objectives:

1.2a Managing municipal solid waste minimizes environmental impacts by supporting sustainable land management practices, improved air and water quality, and greenhouse gas reductions.

1.2b Diverting organic waste from landfills contributes to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and enables processing of organic matter into beneficial products such as nutrient-rich compost.

Discussion:

Reported disposal rates include waste from the residential sector, institutional, commercial, and light industrial sources as well as waste from construction, demolition and renovation activities. The per capita disposal rate is an estimate of how many kilograms of solid waste one person sends to a landfill or other disposal site in a given year. The target for 2018/19 municipal solid waste has been adjusted from the previously published service plan to reflect a shift in reporting methodology. B.C. is continuing to progress toward the target of 350 kilograms per person by 2020/21. Organic waste represents up to 40% of all waste currently sent for disposal. The Ministry continues to work toward the target of 75% of the population covered by an organic waste disposal restriction by 2020/21. This target is further supported by food waste prevention initiatives across the province.

Objective 1.3: Enhanced protection and stewardship of our air

In order to protect human health and the environment, the Ministry manages activities that influence air quality.

Key Strategies:

- Establishing air quality objectives to inform decision making and support local airshed management initiatives.
- Monitoring air quality to better understand the impacts from human activities and environmental events such as forest fires.
- Regulating contaminated air emissions from industry and non-point sources such as wood stoves and open burning, as well as promoting clean technology standards for industrial air emissions.
- Working with local and First Nation governments to establish and implement national air quality management systems.

Performance Measure	2016/17 Baseline	2017/18 Forecast	2018/19 Target	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target
1.3a Fine particulate matter avoided by changing out old wood-burning appliances[1]	22.2 tonnes	27 tonnes	27.5 tonnes	28 tonnes	28.5 tonnes

[1] Data Source: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, manually compiled. Figures are annual.

Linking Performance Measures to Objectives:

1.3a Changing out wood stoves has a direct benefit for local air quality and improved human health. Encouraging individuals to take action to reduce their contribution to air quality issues is consistent with the objective of encouraging stewardship of our air resources.

Discussion:

The Solid Fuel Burning Domestic Appliance Regulation was amended in 2016 to tighten emission standards for wood burning appliances. However, it only applies to the sale, manufacture and import of appliances and does not address the operation and use of existing appliances that are not compliant with the current regulation. The Provincial Wood Stove Exchange Program changes out old, smoky wood stoves for cleaner heating options including heat pumps, gas or pellet stoves and cleaner burning wood stoves. Since 2008, over 7000 wood burning stoves have been replaced through 29 programs offered in the province involving 20 regional districts and over 45 municipal partners.

Objective 1.4: Effective management of environmental risks and threats to public safety

The health of B.C.'s ecosystems, native species, and the public can be put at risk by effluents, emissions, wastes, resource depletion and other living organisms. To manage and mitigate that risk, the Ministry manages waste discharges to the environment, oversees the remediation of high risk contaminated sites, responds to oil spills, and sets regulations for waste disposal. In the case of environmental emergencies and risks to public safety, the Ministry is prepared to respond swiftly and effectively.

Key Strategies:

- Employing every tool available within the Province's jurisdiction to defend B.C.'s coastline, marine ecosystem, land and water courses from the risks posed by an increase in the transport of heavy oil.
- Continuing the development of a comprehensive provincial environmental emergency (spill response) framework, including new regulatory requirements.
- Continually updating and amending regulations in order to stay abreast of the latest science and best management practises.
- Authorizing activities on land, air and water; enforcing compliance with environmental laws and regulations; and environmental monitoring of air and water.
- Integrating and coordinating regulatory oversight to ensure effective and robust management of activities across the land base.
- Proactively dealing with dangerous wildlife that pose a risk of causing injury or death.

The Province's first priority in managing environmental risk and public safety is prevention. For example, the Ministry enforces laws regulating attractants in urban areas to minimize human wildlife conflict; it also delivers proactive public education in partnership with Wildsafe BC.

Performance Measure	2016/17 Baseline	2017/18 Forecast	2018/19 Target	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target
1.4a Number of B.C. mines profiled on the BC Mine Information Site[1]	15	20	25	30	35

[1] Data Source: Manually compiled by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, and the Environmental Assessment Office. Targets are cumulative.

Linking Performance Measures to Objectives:

1.4a The public posting of mine-related authorization, compliance and monitoring information on the BC Mine Information Site is an indicator of government's commitment to managing environmental risks and threats to public safety. The website details activities undertaken in the mining sector, demonstrates the rigour applied through oversight to ensure that safety and environmental requirements are satisfied and advances internal coordination efforts among government agencies.

Discussion:

To further drive government's commitment for transparency and openness, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources and the Environmental Assessment Office have created a new performance measure that tracks the number of mines profiled on the BC Mine Information Site launched in February 2016. The website currently profiles all producing metal and coal mines in the province, and will be expanded in the future to include mines that are in care and maintenance, under construction and closed.

Goal 2: Healthy and diverse ecosystems, native species and habitats

Objective 2.1: Stewardship, conservation and management of B.C.'s natural values

The Ministry plays a critical role in defining and delivering conservation objectives across the province. Its strategic and scientific expertise in the management and analysis of B.C.'s natural values influence the work carried out by partner ministries. The Ministry works to assess, set priorities and determine actions for the conservation and recovery of plants, animals and ecosystems. Within provincial parks and protected areas, natural values are managed through management plans.

Key Strategies:

- Establishing a B.C. legislative framework for species at risk.
- Collaborating with the federal government, Indigenous groups, stakeholders and partner ministries to develop and implement recovery strategies and action plans for species at risk.
- Setting objectives and leading strategic planning for biodiversity, conservation, species recovery and management.
- Preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species.
- Assessing and reporting on the state and trends of conservation values, and determining where action is most critical at a provincial and regional scale.
- Providing leadership in the development of guidance, policy, and legislation to protect and manage ecosystems and species.
- Protecting and managing native species and ecosystems through area and threat-based initiatives.
- Implementing research programs to support conservation and inform decision-making.

- Collaborating with Indigenous groups and communities in protected area planning and management to preserve and care for natural and cultural assets.
- Managing parks and protected areas for ecological representation, biodiversity and landscape connectivity.

The Ministry is determining new ways of establishing conservation priorities and achieving outcomes. Efforts and actions will target comprehensive approaches to increase resilience, maximize return on investment and benefit multiple species and ecosystems. Data and information on species and ecosystems is used to assess and report on biodiversity values to British Columbians. The Province works closely with inter-jurisdictional colleagues to align conservation priorities and contribute to regional, national and international conservation objectives.

Performance Measure	2017/18 Baseline	2017/18 Forecast	2018/19 Target	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target
2.1a Number of protected area complexes with status report completed[1]	0	0	1	3	5

[1] Data Source: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, manually compiled. Targets are cumulative.

Linking Performance Measures to Objectives:

2.1a The health of B.C.'s protected areas system is measured by assessing a range of natural values such as whether invasive species are present, how vulnerable the park is to a changing climate and the effects of human activity. The *Protected Areas Health and Values Report Card* is a pilot conservation action as part of the Ministry's strategy to manage parks and protected areas for ecological representation, biodiversity and landscape connectivity.

Discussion:

Protected area complexes are clusters of protected areas larger than 2,700 km^2 in size, representing 61% of B.C.'s terrestrial protected areas network. These complexes are important as they have been identified as being capable of maintaining populations of disturbance-sensitive mammals. BC Parks is aiming to issue status reports for eight representative park complexes by 2022/23; in 2018/19, it will issue the first of these status reports for a single protected area complex.

Goal 3: Endurable and sustainable use of British Columbia's natural capital

Natural capital is B.C.'s stock of natural assets, including water, land, air and all living things.

Objective 3.1: Inventory, monitoring, science and assessment support robust decision making

The Ministry acquires, manages and analyzes data and information on water, land, air, species and ecosystems. Strong, solid information and science provide the platform for natural resource decision making across the province.

Key Strategies:

- Ensuring relevant monitoring and research is conducted and pertinent data is collected to support and solve resource management issues.
- Incorporating the economic and social value of our natural capital into the development of policies and programs.
- Continuing to advance the provision of data and information to the public and interested parties.

The Ministry manages various environmental monitoring networks, such as air, groundwater and snow, in order to examine the state and trends of our environment. Information received from these networks and other programs is critical for tracking trends over time, interpreting connections between the environment, human well-being and the economy, and for measuring progress towards sustainability.

A performance measure for this objective is being developed for the 2019/20 service plan.

Objective 3.2: Policies, standards and regulations that are clear, consistent, predictable, science-based and effective

Clear and consistent policies, standards and regulations increase certainty for economic development while ensuring the protection of human health and the environment. A predictable regulatory environment helps support a strong, sustainable economy, and consistent environmental outcomes.

Key Strategies:

- Incorporating world-leading approaches and best achievable technologies into environmental guidelines, policies and regulations.
- Engaging with environmental groups, First Nations, industry and the public on the development of regulatory requirements and standards.
- Ensuring the timely and thorough review of permit applications in support of business certainty and environmental protection.

The Ministry routinely reviews its policies, regulations, fees and fines to ensure they include best available information, technology and practices.

Performance Measure	2008/09 Baseline	2017/18 Forecast	2018/19 Target	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target
3.2a Number of new standards, guidelines or objectives incorporating best achievable technology practices that reduce discharges to the environment [1]	3	12	13	14	15

[1] Data Source: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, corresponding policy, guideline, code of practice, or regulation. Targets are cumulative.

Linking Performance Measures to Objectives:

3.2a Incorporating best achievable technology practices into standards, guidelines, and regulations provides improved clarity and compliance rates for industry, resulting in improved

environmental outcomes such as decreased pollution. The Ministry has added at least one new best achievable technology practice per year since 2008/09.

Discussion:

Pollution sources are routinely assessed for new opportunities to reduce environmental impacts. Developing approaches that minimize impacts while ensuring economic viability is complex and involves collaboration with industry, local governments, academia and other experts. In 2018/19, the Ministry is planning to update the Agricultural Waste Control Regulation and the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation, improve standards for fish processing effluent discharges and develop additional guidance for the mining sector.

Objective 3.3: Compliance with regulatory requirements

The Ministry conducts inspections of regulatory requirements and, where necessary, takes enforcement action commensurate with any non-compliance. Investigations are typically conducted where a more stringent response may be required, such as court prosecution.

Key Strategies:

- Continually improving regulatory oversight with an ongoing emphasis on inspections of higher risk sites.
- Conducting investigations into environmental violations and implementing new enforcement tools such as administrative monetary penalties to address non-compliance.
- Publicly naming companies and individuals subject to enforcement action, as well as those with outstanding environmental court penalties.

Performance Measure	2014/15 Baseline	2017/18 Forecast	2018/19 Target	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target
3.3a Number of inspections conducted under the *Environmental Management Act*[1]	711	1500	2000	2000	2000

[1] Data Source: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, manually compiled. Inspections (in office reviews and on-site examinations) conducted under the *Act* and associated regulations.

Linking Performance Measures to Objectives:

3.3a Ministry staff conduct inspections under the *Environmental Management Act* to determine compliance with regulatory requirements. Compliance inspections are integral to the Ministry's responsibility for environmental regulatory oversight.

Discussion:

Many factors influence the frequency and nature of inspections, including risk to human health and the environment, compliance history of the regulated party, resources and community concerns. Inspection targets under the *Environmental Management Act* have been significantly augmented to reflect increases in staffing and resources.

Objective 3.4: Optimize outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities within parks and protected areas

The Province is building on its world-renowned provincial parks system to enable British Columbians and others to connect with B.C.'s iconic landscapes in a sustainable and memorable way.

Key Strategies:

- Working with First Nations to develop new models for the collaborative management of parks.
- Providing new and diverse recreation, heritage and cultural visitor experiences in addition to traditional BC Parks services and offerings.
- Growing and enhancing BC Parks as a pillar in B.C.'s tourism industry.
- Fostering public engagement to connect citizens to the management of parks and protected areas.

Performance Measure	2016/17 Baseline	2017/18 Forecast	2018/19 Target	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target
3.4a Number of new campsites, recreation sites and trails built towards 2021/22 goal[1]	378	726	1,405	1,876	1,991

[1] Data Source: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, manually compiled. Targets are cumulative.

Linking Performance Measures to Objectives:

3.4a This performance measure illustrates progress towards an outcome of the Ministry's strategy of providing new and diverse recreation, heritage and cultural visitor experiences. Improving camping and recreation infrastructure has a positive impact on outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities within parks and protected areas.

Discussion:

The campsite expansion program aims to add over 1,900 new campsites, recreation sites and trails by 2021/22 in a joint effort between the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. New sites will be constructed in areas where camping demand exceeds supply, and where construction is financially and logistically feasible.

Climate Action Secretariat

Purpose of the Climate Action Secretariat

The Climate Action Secretariat (CAS) coordinates government's efforts to reduce B.C.'s contribution to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in accordance with legislated targets; and prepare for, and adapt to, the expected changes in our natural and built environment as a result of climate change. CAS also administers the *Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act* and the *Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act*.

Strategic Context for the Climate Action Secretariat

As a low-emitting province, but one heavily exposed to the risks from a changing climate, B.C. is committed to demonstrating successful carbon reduction solutions and promoting the widespread adoption of ambitious climate policy. The momentum for taking climate action is building globally, and innovative economies that offer solutions to climate change can benefit from "first mover" advantage and create good jobs.

B.C. signed on to the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change (PCF), a national collaboration to reduce GHG emissions and build resilience to climate change. The PCF will provide federal support for B.C.'s efforts to reduce emissions and address climate risks.

The Climate Solutions and Clean Growth Advisory Council was established in October 2017 and will provide advice to government on:

- Actions and policies that can contribute to GHG reductions and optimize opportunities for clean growth and job creation; and,
- How to enhance potential benefits and mitigate potential impacts of government's climate policies to ensure sustained economic prosperity and social equity.

The Council will also report on B.C.'s climate action progress to the public every two years.

The Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project significantly impacts B.C. with a disproportionate impact on its marine coastal environment and Indigenous peoples as well as profound economic risks associated with a bitumen spill on our coast. The government made a commitment to use every tool available to defend B.C.'s interests. The first step was to appear as intervenors in the Federal Court of Appeal hearing regarding the federal approval of the project. The Province will continue to explore other legal ways to defend the interests of British Columbians in relation to this project.

In 2017, the Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia conducted an audit of government's efforts to manage the risks associated with a changing climate. Government is awaiting the publishing of the audit.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures

Goal 1: A sustainable, resilient low-carbon economy

Objective 1.1: Implement a climate-action strategy that provides a pathway for B.C. to prosper economically while significantly reducing our carbon pollution

The Secretariat coordinates effective climate action strategies to support clean growth and transition B.C. to a sustainable, low-carbon future.

Key Strategies:

- Increasing the carbon tax by $5 per tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent (t/CO_2e) per year, beginning April 1, 2018 reaching the Federal Carbon Benchmark Price of $50t/CO_2e in 2021.
- Ensuring affordability by providing rebates to low- and middle-income families to help offset costs.
- Exploring options, including the use of carbon pricing, to reduce GHG emissions from B.C.'s oil and gas sector and the burning of slash in forestry operations.
- Supporting the work of the Climate Solutions and Clean Growth Advisory Council, and working with them to identify priorities and develop action plans.
- Leading the development of cross-government strategies, along with supportive policy, legislation, programs and educational materials that empower communities, families, businesses and local governments in reducing their greenhouse gas emissions while promoting sustainable economic development.
- Supporting B.C.'s large industrial emitters in becoming the lowest-emitting facilities in the world, while helping to maintain their competitiveness and avoiding carbon leakage to higher polluting jurisdictions.
- Collecting, managing and analyzing of emissions data, trends and insights to inform effective climate action.
- Collaborating with other levels of government in B.C., across Canada and internationally to encourage ambitious action on carbon pollution.
- Working with the federal government, and other B.C. ministries, to ensure federal investment in B.C. climate action programs through the Pan-Canadian Framework and the Green Infrastructure and Low Carbon Economy funding programs.
- Demonstrating public sector leadership through operating a carbon neutral government, increasing resiliency and energy efficiency in public buildings, and using strategic procurement to drive clean technology and innovation.
- Working to ensure compliance with the regulatory requirements under the *Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act*.

Performance Measure		**2007 Baseline**	**2017/18 Forecast**	**2018/19 Target**	**2019/20 Target**	**2020/21 Target**
1.1a	Annual level of greenhouse gas emissions in B.C. relative to 2007 levels.[1]	64.7 kilotonnes CO_2e	61.3 kilotonnes CO_2e	To be determined once new legislative targets established	To be determined once new legislative targets established	To be determined once new legislative targets established
Performance Measure		**2015/16 Baseline**	**2017/18 Forecast**	**2018/19 Target**	**2019/20 Target**	**2020/21 Target**
1.1b	Develop a 2030 GHG reduction target for B.C. of 40% below 2007 levels and sectoral targets for transportation, buildings and industry.[2]	N/A	N/A	Targets set and announced	N/A	N/A

[1] Data Source: B.C. GHG emissions as reported in Progress to Targets or Provincial Inventory.
[2] Data Source: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, manually compiled.

Linking Performance Measures to Objectives:

1.1a The 2008 *Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act* set GHG emissions targets for 2020 and 2050 from a 2007 baseline with interim targets in 2012 and 2016.

1.1b New 2030 targets at the provincial and sectoral level set the goals for the new climate-action strategy and a parameter for provincial climate and economic policy development.

Discussion:

In 2012, the Province met its interim target of a six per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 2007 levels. However, since 2011, overall GHG emissions have increased, including increases in four of the last five years. Once validated forestry offsets are accounted for, B.C.'s emissions are 4.7% below 2007 baseline levels. B.C. is not on track to achieve the 2016 interim target of 18% below 2007 or the 2020 target of 33% below 2007. Government has committed to setting a new 2030 target of 40% below 2007 levels, with sectoral targets for transport, buildings and industry and implementing a comprehensive strategy to achieve those targets.

Objective 1.2: Effective management of the risks and consequences associated with a changing climate

The Secretariat leads efforts to improve the awareness; understanding; and management of the risk within and to B.C. from a changing climate.

Key Strategies:

- Evaluating the potential human, financial, economic and natural risks from climate change; identifying options to reduce those risks; and improving the intelligence available to decision makers to manage them.
- Improving performance monitoring and public reporting on climate risks, and efforts to reduce them.
- Collaborating with internal and external partners, including other jurisdictions, levels of government and stakeholders, to build capacity and intelligence from which to understand and manage climate risks effectively.
- Working with the federal government and other B.C. ministries to ensure federal investment in B.C. climate resilience and adaptation programs through the Pan-Canadian Framework and Green Infrastructure Fund and Low Carbon Economy Fund investments.
- Reviewing, updating and implementing legislation, policies and programs to ensure B.C. is prepared for and resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Performance Measure	2017/18 Forecast	2018/19 Target	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target
1.2 B.C. Climate Risk Management Framework pillars identified and in place.[1]	N/A	40%	80%	100%

[1] Data Source: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, manually compiled.

Linking Performance Measures to Objectives:

1.2 This performance measure tracks progress in establishing a government wide approach to climate risk management through the development of a framework from which B.C. can manage those risks effectively.

Discussion:

The B.C. government has adopted the CSA/ISO 31000 Risk Management – Principles and Guidelines as the provincial standard for risk management. The standard describes a framework for risk management that includes five elements – establish the context; assess risks; treat risks; monitor and review; and communicate and consult. Government intends to apply this framework to the management of climate related risks. This performance measure reflects government's progress implementing a climate risk management framework by tracking completion of these five elements.

Objective 1.3: Defend B.C.'s interests in relation to the expansion of the Kinder Morgan pipeline

The Secretariat leads and coordinates efforts to protect B.C.'s environment and economy from the increased risks associated with the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain Expansion Project.

Key Strategies:

- Working closely with line agencies to develop and, where appropriate, implement tools that ensure B.C.'s high standards of environmental protection are applied to the project.
- Working closely with the Ministry of Attorney General to ensure that all legal options are considered with respect to this project.

Environmental Assessment Office

Purpose of the Environmental Assessment Office

The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) neutrally administers the environmental assessment (EA) process as defined in the *Environmental Assessment Act*, which requires proposed major projects to be assessed for potentially significant adverse environmental, social, economic, health and heritage effects. The EAO seeks to meaningfully engage the public and Indigenous groups in the EA process and is responsible for overseeing compliance and enforcement (C&E) of reviewable projects throughout the life of the project. Additional information regarding the EA process can be found on the EAO website.

Strategic Context for the EAO

As of January 2018, there were 20 active projects[1] under review: 9 mining, two transportation, two liquefied natural gas, six energy, and one water management. In total, the potential capital investment for all active projects currently in the EA process is over $75,831,613,000.[2]

EA Revitalization

Throughout 2018/19, the EAO will be pursuing new initiatives through EA revitalization to:

- Pursue reconciliation by integrating Indigenous communities' values, knowledge, culture and cultural practices and well-being into the environmental assessment process and seek consensus with potentially affected First Nations on matters that may impact their rights;
- Enhance public confidence to ensure impacted First Nations, local communities and governments and the broader public are provided with opportunities to meaningfully engage in, and influence, EAs through all stages of the process; and,
- Continue to protect the environment while supporting sustainable economic growth by providing certainty of process and clarity of regulatory considerations: an environmental process that is robust, transparent, timely, predictable, science-based and provides opportunity for early indications of the likelihood of success.

EAO Project Information and Collaboration System

The EAO, led by its internal Digital Services Team, has collaborated amongst digital leaders across government to launch several digital products. These include the beta version of a revised EAO Project Information and Collaboration System (EPIC), a prototype mobile field inspections application, and the BC Mine Information Site (in partnership with the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources (EMPR) and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV)). These tools promise to improve both the efficiency and transparency of the EA process and sets the groundwork to continuously improve and, as necessary, expand the tools, processes and capabilities that support efforts to revitalize the EA process in B.C.

Federal Review

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency's implementation of the federal government's review of its EA process will impact the provincial EA process given that historically almost 60% of projects that trigger a provincial EA also trigger a federal EA. Currently, of the 20 active projects in the EA process, 15 require both a federal and provincial EA. Four of those 15 projects are substituted environmental assessments which allows for a single review process administered by the EAO while retaining two separate statutory decisions (federal and provincial). The results of the federal review are anticipated sometime in 2018 and may inform how the Province revitalizes the EA process.

[1] Active projects are defined as projects that are in the pre-application and application review stage of the EA process. This would include projects in application review that are suspended.
[2] Capital investment figures are provided by the proponent.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures

Goal 1: Conducting effective, transparent and timely EAs

Objective 1.1: Timely and transparent EAs

B.C. has had EA legislation and an associated office dedicated to its implementation since 1995. The EAO neutrally administers a legally defined process that is predictable, transparent, timely, and procedurally fair and holds all participants accountable.

Key Strategies:

- Pursuing collaborative opportunities with First Nations on existing projects and broader policy or legislative means to revitalize the EA process.
- Appropriately scoping project reviews and following project management discipline approaches to adhere to the legislated 180-day application review period.
- Identifying policy and practice options to enhance the transparency, effectiveness and efficiency of the EA review process, including early indications of the likelihood of success.
- Modernizing services, including an enhanced web presence and electronic collaboration tools.

Performance Measure	2017/18 Forecast	2018/19 Target	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target
1.1a EA application reviews completed within 180 days:[1]				
B.C. process only	100%	100%	100%	100%
Joint B.C./Canada Process	100%	100%	100%	100%

[1] Data Source: EAO, manually compiled

Linking Performance Measures to Objectives:

1.1a The legislated timelines in the *Environmental Assessment Act* include a 180-day limit for the review of applications for EA certificates. This timeline offers certainty in understanding the duration of steps in EA and supports timely planning for the public, government, Indigenous groups, proponents and other potentially affected parties.

Discussion:

The EA process is an integrated and iterative process in which the EAO works with the proponent, government agencies, Indigenous groups, potentially affected parties, and the public to ensure if the project proceeds, it does so in a manner that prevents or reduces any potential adverse effects to an acceptable level. The EAO ensures Ministers are informed of both the potential benefits and adverse effects of the proposed project before they decide whether or not to issue an EA conditional certificate.

Objective 1.2: Ensure the effectiveness of EAs

Continuously improving effectiveness and efficiency is key to maintaining the integrity of B.C.'s EA process.

Key Strategies:

- Improving the C&E program to provide monitoring and ensure projects comply with certificate requirements.
- Using information from monitoring to evaluate the effectiveness and ensure continuous improvement of the EA process.
- Collaborating with other provincial agencies to improve service to clients while reducing overlap and duplication with other federal and provincial regulators.

Performance Measures	2016/17 Baseline	2017/18 Forecast	2018/19 Target	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target
1.2a Number of compliance inspections completed on certified projects.	35	35	36	38	40
1.2b Number of mines profiled on the BC Mine Information Site.	15	20	25	30	35

[1] Data Source: EAO, manually compiled
[2] Data Source: Manually compiled by ENV, EMPR, and EAO

Linking Performance Measures to Objectives:

1.2a Inspections are a key tool the EAO uses to promote compliance and enforce legally binding EA certificate conditions.

1.2b The public posting of mine-related information on the BC Mine Information Site aligns with the work underway to revitalize the EA process. The website details activities undertaken in the mining sector, demonstrates the rigour applied through oversight to ensure that safety and environmental requirements are satisfied and advances internal co-ordination efforts among government agencies.

Discussion:

Throughout the life of a project, the EAO and compliance partners provide oversight of the certificate holder's implementation of the requirements set in the EA certificate and permits. This coordinated approach to C&E provides certainty and consistency for industry, government, First Nations and the public which contributes to a strong economy while ensuring environmental requirements are enforced.

To further drive government's commitment for transparency and openness, ENV, EMPR, and the EAO have created a new performance measure that tracks the number of mines profiled on the BC Mine Information Site launched in February 2016. The website currently profiles all producing metal and coal mines in the province, and will be expanded in the future to include mines that are in care and maintenance, under construction, and closed.

Resource Summary

Core Business Area	2017/18 Restated Estimates[1]	2018/19 Estimates[7]	2019/20 Plan	2020/21 Plan
Operating Expenses ($000)				
Environmental Protection	11,531	11,801	11,738	11,738
Environmental Sustainability	22,730	23,972	24,087	24,087
BC Parks[2]	49,386	40,478	40,738	41,160
Conservation Officer Service[3]	15,476	18,207	17,741	17,741
Climate Action	16,535	15,600	13,830	13,830
Executive and Support Services	23,062	23,891	23,893	23,893
Sub-Total	138,720	133,949	132,027	132,449
Park Enhancement Fund[4]	3,675	9,800	9,800	9,800
Sustainable Environment Fund[5]	18,935	23,635	23,635	23,635
Total	**161,330**	**167,384**	**165,462**	**165,884**
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) ($000)				
Executive and Support Services[6]	22,085	27,149	17,702	15,630
Park Enhancement Fund	400	400	400	400
Total	**22,485**	**27,549**	**18,102**	**16,030**
Other Financing Transactions ($000)				
Climate Action Greenhouse Gas Emissions offsets				
Disbursements	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Net Cash (Requirements)	(10,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)
Total Disbursements	**10,000**	**10,000**	**10,000**	**10,000**
Total Net Cash Source (Requirements)	**(10,000)**	**(10,000)**	**(10,000)**	**(10,000)**

[1] For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2017/18 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2018/19 Estimates.
[2] BC Parks decreased from 2017/18 due to one-time endowment grant given to the BC Parks Foundation in 2017/18.
[3] Additional funding to support the hiring of 20 new conservation officers.
[4] Park Enhancement Fund expenditures reflect increased revenues in the Fund and resulting opportunities for enhancement projects.
[5] Sustainable Environment Fund expenditures reflect new revenues that will be used to provide additional capacity to support authorizations, monitoring and assessment functions.
[6] Ministry Capital Expenditures, Executive and Support Services increase relates to expansion of campsites within BC Parks.
[7] Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates.

Resource Summary for the Environmental Assessment Office

Core Business Area	2017/18 Restated Estimates[1]	2018/19 Estimates[2]	2019/20 Plan	2020/21 Plan
Operating Expenses ($000)				
Environmental Assessment Office	11,870	11,902	11,831	11,831

[1] For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2017/18 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2018/19 Estimates.
[2] Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates.

Appendix A: Ministry Contact Information

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Contact Information

Headquarters

Victoria Office:
Telephone: 250 387-9870
Fax: 250 387-6003
Website: www.gov.bc.ca/env/
Additional contact information can be found at www.gov.bc.ca/env/contacts.html

Regional Offices

Coast Region

West Coast

Nanaimo Office:
Telephone: 250 751-3100
Fax: 250 751-3103
Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/van-island/
Other offices: Black Creek, Duncan, Goldstream Park, Queen Charlotte City, Parksville, Port Alberni, Port Hardy, Ucluelet

South Coast

Surrey Office:
Telephone: 604 582-5200
Fax: 604 930-7119
Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/lower-mainland/
Other offices: Brackendale (Squamish), Cultus Lake, Maple Ridge, North Vancouver, Sechelt, Powell River

Southern Interior Region

Cariboo/Thompson

Kamloops Office:
Telephone: 250 371-6200
Fax: 250 828-4000
Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/thompson/

Williams Lake Office:
Telephone: 250 398-4530
Fax: 250 398-4214
Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/cariboo/
Other offices: Clearwater, Lillooet, Merritt, Kelowna, Oliver, Princeton, Vernon, 100 Mile House, Quesnel

Kootenay/Okanagan

Nelson Office:
Telephone: 250 354-6333
Fax: 250 354-6332
Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/kootenay/
Other offices: Castlegar, Creston/West Creston, Fernie, Grand Forks, Invermere, Golden, Revelstoke

Penticton Office:
Telephone: 250 490-8200
Fax: 250 490-2231
Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/okanagan/

Cranbrook Office:
Telephone: 250 489-8540
Fax: 250 489-8506

Northern Region

Skeena

Smithers Office:
Telephone: 250 847-7260
Fax: 250 847-7591
Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/skeena/
Other offices: Atlin, Burns Lake, Dease Lake, Terrace/Lakelse Lake

Omineca

Environmental Protection Division
Conservation Officer Service

Prince George Office:
Telephone: 250 565-6135
Fax: 250 565-6629

Environmental Sustainability
Parks and Protected Areas Division

Prince George Office:
Telephone: 250 565-6135
Fax: 250 565-6940

Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/omineca/
Other offices: Vanderhoof, Mackenzie, Mount Robson, Fort St. James

Peace

Fort St. John Office:
Telephone: 250 787-3411
Fax: 250 787-3490

Water Stewardship Division:
Phone: 250 565-6135
Fax: 250 565-6629

Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/peace/
Other offices: Chetwynd/Moberly Lake Park, Dawson Creek, Fort Nelson/Liard Hotsprings

Report all Poachers and Polluters

Telephone: Dial Toll-Free 1-877-952-7277
Website: http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/rapp/form.htm

Environmental Assessment Office Contact Information

836 Yates Street
PO Box 9426 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria B.C. V8W 9V1
Email: eaoinfo@gov.bc.ca
Website: www.eao.gov.bc.ca
Additional contact information can be found at http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca/contacts.html